



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/725,574	12/03/2003	Gudmundur Fertram Sigurjonsson	SIGU3011/JEK/JJC	5131
23364	7590	02/13/2006	EXAMINER	
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			HAND, MELANIE JO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3761	

DATE MAILED: 02/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/725,574	SIGURJONSSON ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Melanie J. Hand	3761	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.

2a)  This action is FINAL.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on 03 December 2003 is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date various(3). 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Priority***

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for priority under copending Provisional Application No. 60/437,146 filed on December 31, 2002.

***Information Disclosure Statements***

The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on December 3, 2003, July 29, 2004 and February 5, 2005 were filed on and after the mailing date of the Application on December 3, 2003. The submissions are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statements are being considered by the examiner.

***Claim Objections***

Claim 21 is objected to because of the following informalities: the phrase "includes defines at least one compliant element" appears to contain a typographical error. As "includes" and "defines" have significantly different meanings, Examiner requests clarification and strongly advises applicant to correct the claim language. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having

ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-19 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilman (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0088202).

With respect to **Claim 1,3**: Gilman teaches wound dressing 10 having hydrophilic foam layer 11 having two opposing surfaces, each having a central portion and a border portion, a liquid-impermeable and vapor-permeable backing layer 13 adjacent a distal surface of foam 11 having a border portion 13a that overlies foam layer 11 and extends beyond the periphery of foam layer 11, and adhesive layer 16 disposed on the entirety of the bodyside surface of base film 12, including that attaches border portion 12a of base film 12 and border portion 13a to one another. ('202, ¶¶ 0015, 0016) Gilman only explicitly teaches that adhesive layer 16 is present in border portion 12a, however since Gilman also teaches that backing layer 13 is not attached to the foam layer 11 by any adhesive means, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add adhesive only to the border portion 13a so as to add additional integrity to the adhesion between backing layer 13 and base film 12.

With respect to **Claim 2,14**: As can best be seen in Figs. 1 and 2, border portion 13a is parallel to the proximal surface of layer 11.

With respect to **Claim 4,15**: As can best be seen in Fig. 1, border portion 13a is defined by two sets of opposing elongate sections, the elongate sections in each set being separated from the opposite elongate section by foam layer 11.

With respect to **Claims 5,6,16**: Gilman teaches that the adhesive in adhesive layer 16 (which is intended to contact the skin) is a suitable hypoallergenic pressure sensitive adhesive, specifically a hydrogel adhesive, which is an elastomeric adhesive. ('202, ¶¶ 0015, 0017)

With respect to **Claim 7,17**: Gilman teaches that backing layer 13 does not contain adhesive in the area overlying foam layer 11 *in a preferred embodiment*. ('202, ¶ 0016) Examiner asserts that Gilman is thus implicitly teaching that backing 13 is capable of carrying adhesive 16 in the area overlying foam layer 11.

With respect to **Claim 8,18**: Gilman teaches that adhesive layer 16 is vapor-permeable. ('202, ¶ 0015).

With respect to **Claim 9**: Gilman teaches at least one centrally located opening 17 on base film 12 that is smaller than the size of the wound. ('202, ¶ 0018)

With respect to **Claim 10,19**: Gilman teaches that adhesive 16 is used both to attach the bodyside surface of base film 12 to the skin of the user and to attach the border portions 12a and 13a to each other. Given this structure and the purpose of the dressing, Examiner asserts that the amount of adhesive applied to secure the border portions 12a to 13a has to be greater than in layer 16 on base film 12 even though the surface area of adhesion is less than that of the area of adhesion between the base film and the skin so as to ensure that backing layer 13 does not "pop up" or dislocate from the foam layer 11 upon activation of the pressure sensitive adhesive occurring when dressing 10 is pressed against the skin.

With respect to **Claim 11**: Gilman teaches delivery assisting layer 20 that is weakly attached to backing layer 13, thus being dissociated from the distal surface of foam layer 11 and extends over an intermediate portion of foam layer 11 that is between a central portion and a border portion of said foam layer.

With respect to **Claims 12,13**: Please see the rejections of Claims 1 and 9 as collectively these rejections address all of the limitations of claims 12,13.

With respect to **Claims 21-23**: Please see the rejection of Claims 1, 5 and 9 as collectively these rejections address all of the limitations of claims 21-23.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilman ('202) in view of Samuelsen (U.S. Patent No. 4,867,748).

With respect to **Claim 20**: Gilman does not teach that foam layer 11 is beveled. Samuelsen teaches a wound dressing wherein an absorbent layer is beveled downwardly and inwardly towards a central axis from a distal surface with respect to a backing layer to a proximal surface. Samuelsen teaches that beveling the absorbent allows the thinner portion of said absorbent in the beveled region to stop the flow of adhesive plasticized due to heating from contact with the skin from seeping out from the edge of the cover layer and damaging bed linens or other fabrics and thus eliminating the need for the placement of tape around the periphery of the bandage, ('748, Col. 2, lines 40-50), therefore it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to bevel the foam layer 11 of the dressing taught by Gilman in the manner taught by Samuelsen.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melanie J. Hand whose telephone number is 571-272-6464. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 8:00-5:30, alternate Fridays 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tatyana Zalukaeva can be reached on 571-272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Melanie J Hand  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3761

MJH

TATYANA ZALUKAEVA  
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER

